

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were originally filed with the present application and were subject to a restriction requirement and election of species in an Office Action dated June 21, 2006. Group IV, claims 29-49, was elected. Claims 1-28 are herewith canceled. The 2-bromo-7-benzothiazolyl-9,9'-dioctylfluorene species was elected as the single ultimate disclosed species. Claim 29 is generic to the species.

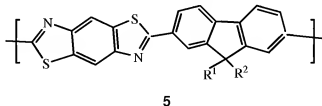
The Office action states that claims 30, 31, and 38-44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Office action also states that claims 45-49 are allowable. This indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 30 is now amended herein to delete the redundant term "halogen" and replace semicolons with commas. Claims 50-55 are added herein; these are based on original claim 27, and no new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 29 and 32-37 are rejected over Belfield, et al., PMSE, 84, 660-661 (2001). The rejection is traversed.

Belfield discloses a bisbenzothiazole polymer having structural units of formula 5.



The Office action states that the Belfield polymer meets the requirements of the rejected claims when R^1 and R^2 are alkyl, Z and Q are O, and R^3 is an electron-donating substituent. Applicants respectfully disagree. The claims would read on a polymer having structural units of formula 5 if R^3 were a trivalent group of formula I, or if two divalent R^3 groups, taken together, were to

form a five-membered ring, attached to another structural unit at the position between the nitrogen and sulfur atoms.



However, the R³ group depicted in claim 29 is merely monovalent, so it cannot have the structure of formula I or function as a point of attachment to the rest of the polymer. Therefore, the claims do not read on Belfield's bisbenzothiazole polymer 5. Accordingly, Applicants submit that because the reference does not disclose a polymer having the claimed structure, the claims are not obvious in view thereof. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

New claims 50-55 relate to electroactive devices that include polymers derived from vinyl benzothiazolyl fluorenyl monomers. The Belfield reference is silent regarding such materials. Therefore, Applicants submit that the new claims are patentable over the teachings of the reference.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is believed that claims 29-55 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims under consideration herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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